

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



NOVEMBER 2011

**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM**

**IN THE NOVEMBER ISSUE:
STORMY WEATHER**

The recent storms that wreaked havoc on the East Coast serve to remind West Coasters that storm season is upon us.



Tree failure in Seattle in the 2006
"Hannukah Eve Storm"
(photo: Seattle Parks)

Big storms sometimes mean big damage. The good news is that most trees get through storms just fine. If they didn't, we would not have those beautiful large trees in our neighborhoods. But neglected or improperly pruned trees can shed limbs or fail during storms, causing power outages, property damage or injuries.

Be cautious in the aftermath of a storm and make sure your tree is not only standing but in good shape. Look up. Storm-damaged trees may have broken limbs that can fall later or come into contact with power lines. Look down. Saturated soils can lead to unstable trees. Look all around. Watch for newly mounded or cracking soil on the windward side of trees. This can indicate instability and should be

evaluated immediately.

To ease any fears you may have about large trees and to reduce the likelihood of unnecessary damage in storms, have trees inspected by a [certified arborist](#). Arborists are trained to evaluate trees for safety and will recommend a course of action specific to your tree(s). They also provide proper tree care, which may include pruning to remove dead or weakened limbs on trees or weight in lateral branches, which reduces wind resistance.

Do not top trees! Leaves are the "food factories" of a tree. When branches (and their leaves) are removed by topping, trees (the ones that don't die from the treatment) respond by growing new branches very quickly to survive. The tree will have even more branches, but they will be very weakly attached and are prone to breaking. Find out more about topping trees on our [website](#).

Follow these tips to hire and work with tree service companies

- Hire a company that is licensed, bonded, insured and employs ISA Certified Arborists. Although Washington requires tree service companies to register with the state, they are not required to adhere to proper pruning standards or even demonstrate pruning knowledge in order to obtain a license.
- Look for a Certified Arborist in your area, visit www.treesaregood.com
- Beware of 'door-knockers,' their low prices could prove costly. Most reputable companies have business cards, truck signs, and even uniforms that represent a professional level of

service.

- Ask for references, and take time to select a reputable company. Avoid hiring anyone who will top a tree.

Important dates to remember:

[Community Forestry Assistance Grant](#) proposals - due **November 10th**

[Tree City USA](#) applications and re-certification reports - due **December 1st**

Read in this issue to find:

- [Remembering Wangari Maathai, Founder of the Greenbelt Movement](#)
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- [Calendar of Events](#)

Do you have a story to share in Tree Link? [Contact us!](#)

[Subscribe to Tree Link](#)

IN MEMORY

"It is evident that many wars are fought over resources which are now becoming increasingly scarce. If we conserved our resources better, fighting over them would not then occur...so, protecting the global environment is directly related to securing peace...those of us who understand the complex concept of the environment have the burden to act. We must not tire, we must not give up, we must persist."

Professor Wangari Maathai, (1940-2011), founder of [the Greenbelt Movement](#) on receiving the news of being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, 2004

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COORDINATOR'S CORNER



Happy autumn, tree lovers! This month, I would like to express my thanks to four members of the Washington Community Forestry Council who have completed their terms and chosen not to seek reappointment. Thank you to Scott Thomas (Washington Recreation and Parks Association), Jeff Beckwith (Elected Officials - City of Enumclaw City Council), Barry Johnson (Association of Washington Cities), and Mark Kahley (at-large). The Council is advisory to the Department of Natural Resources and the Commissioner of Public Lands on urban forestry issues. Visit [DNR's urban forestry program web page](#) for more information about the Council. Also on our website is information about the Community Forestry Assistance grants that are due November 10, and the 2012 Community Tree Management Institute. If you are interested in more information, please contact me at 360-902-1704 or sarah.foster@dnr.wa.gov.

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CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS CARING FOR WASHINGTON'S URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTS

By Aaron Everett, Washington State Forester, Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Where would our communities be without our urban forests?

Urban forests are all around us. Our parks, street trees, landscaped boulevards, public gardens, river and coastal boardwalks, greenways, river corridors, wetlands, nature preserves, natural areas, shelterbelts, and trees in our back yards are all part of the urban forest.

With 80 percent of the nation's population living in cities, urban forests provide a natural life support system that helps sustain us. Trees offer better air quality, improved water quality, and even create community cohesion.



Twenty years ago, the challenges of sustaining urban forests were evident nationwide because the health of our cities' trees was declining. As a result, a [national Urban & Community Forestry program](#) was developed through the [USDA Forest Service](#) to educate citizens and decision-makers about the economic, environmental, psychological, and aesthetic benefits of trees. With the help of this program, communities across the United States have taken stock of tree locations and conditions, made plans for their care and maintenance, established ordinances to protect trees, and carried out projects to improve and expand tree cover.

Why does all this matter? Healthy, well-maintained trees have been shown to increase property values and reduce heating and cooling costs. [Research](#) also shows there is less crime and violence in areas with trees and green public spaces. Urban green spaces provide a local respite, eliminating the need to travel great distances to find an escape into nature.

With easily accessible natural areas in our cities, awareness of the outdoors is fostered into our daily lives. These areas give us an important, personal connection at a time when our culture relies heavily on electronic and virtual ways of relating to the outdoors. Plus, this connection helps urban residents develop strong support for natural resources.

Since 1991, [DNR's Urban and Community Forestry Program](#) has been providing leadership to create self-sustaining urban forestry programs that preserve, plant, and manage forests and trees for public benefits and quality of life.

The program is funded by the USDA Forest Service. When funding permits, grants are awarded to Washington communities, educational institutions, tribes, and non-profit organizations. Since the program's inception, over \$2 million has been awarded for on-the-ground urban forestry projects. The money has been used to fund education and planning projects, such as tree inventories, canopy assessments, and management plans.

As a firm advocate for the investment in community trees and forests, DNR's Urban and Community Forestry Program helps local governments, citizen groups, and volunteers in planting and sustaining healthy trees where people live and work in Washington.

It's imperative that we manage and care for our urban forests so their benefits will be enjoyed for future generations.

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APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE
2012 COMMUNITY TREE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE



The Oregon Department of Forestry and the Washington Department of Natural Resources are pleased to announce another session of the innovative Community Tree Management Institute (CTMI) for 2012. The CTMI is a continuing educational curriculum consisting of educational sessions specifically tailored to the needs of municipal parks, planning, or public works employees who have tree related responsibilities in their city. Over 120 people have completed this course since 1994.

For the first time ever, CTMI will include online sessions instead of just place-based ones. There are five sessions from March through October, with face-to-face meetings for the first and last sessions and three online sessions in between.

CTMI 2012 is open to any municipal employee in Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Idaho. CTMI is appropriate for anyone who coordinates community forestry issues, reviews tree plans, issues permits, or inspects trees in your city. ISA Certified Arborists may obtain up to 20 credits for attending the CTMI.

The application deadline for the 2012 CTMI class is January 31, 2012. Contact your [Community Assistance Forester](#) to obtain an application.

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SEASONAL FOLIAGE LOSS IN CONIFER TREES

by [Kevin W. Zobrist](#), Area Extension Educator, Forest Stewardship

Despite the Pacific Northwest's reputation for rain, from a tree's perspective, it is perhaps our dryness that is actually the most distinguishing feature of our climate. Our climate is characterized by a long droughty period in the summer. This is very different from other parts of the world where summer means afternoon thunderstorms and heavy rains.

It is this summer drought period that gives conifers a big advantage from having evergreen foliage that is available to produce sugars year round. Hardwoods like alder and maple have it rough; shedding their foliage and going dormant during the wet winter season and then lacking sufficient water to photosynthesize when their leaves are present in summer.

However, "evergreen" does not mean that the leaves last throughout the life of the tree. It simply means that leaves last for more than one growing season. Every year, an evergreen tree will tend to shed its oldest foliage (the innermost foliage on a branch). The same drought feature that gives conifers their advantage is not without consequences, and the conifers are also stressed at the end of a long, dry summer. By the time September rolls around, there may not be enough resources to maintain all the green foliage, and the oldest foliage is least valuable to the tree because it has become shaded and dirty. When the tree prioritizes its resources, the oldest foliage is sacrificed in favor of newer, more productive foliage.

Although its appearance often causes alarm, this seasonal foliage loss is a normal part of conifer growth. It is particularly noticeable in western redcedar, where it is referred to as "flagging". Seasonal foliage loss can also be particularly pronounced in pines. Some years seem to have particularly pronounced seasonal dieback depending on weather



Western redcedar is particularly prone to seasonal interior needle loss, which is referred to



Seasonal foliage loss is also particularly pronounced in pines, with the innermost needles turning brown and falling off. (Photo: K.W. Zobrist)

patterns and other stress factors. as cedar "flagging." (Photo: K.W. Zobrist)
Thus, even when there is excessive interior needle loss, it is not necessarily an indicator of disease, insect attack, or "something else going on." There are some insect and disease agents that will tend to attack the oldest foliage, but these agents usually show additional symptoms such as chewing or speckling across many years of older foliage.

Being a seasonal phenomenon, the issue should resolve itself with the changing of the seasons. The first big windstorm in November or December will blow the shed foliage out of the tree, which may then suddenly look much greener and

healthier. There are other seasonal discolorations that may occur as winter wears on, though. Redcedar again is particularly prone to this. Its foliage may turn a bronze color due to cold, dry weather, but then green up again in the spring. Some conifers may also become somewhat discolored in late winter and early spring due to heavy rains leaching nutrients from the foliage.

Conifers tend to look the healthiest in late spring and early summer. If you are concerned about the condition of a tree, you may wish to monitor it for at least a year to get a better sense of whether there is a sustained pattern of decline or just natural seasonal fluctuations. If there is an immediate safety concern, though, a professional arborist or consulting forester can provide a hazard assessment.

Kevin W. Zobrist is the Area Extension Forest Stewardship Educator for Washington State University contact him by email kzobrist@wsu.edu by phone at 425-357-6017 or visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/>



Winter "bronzing" of a western redcedar seedling. (Photo: K.W. Zobrist)

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PARTNERSHIP SUCCESS

VOLUNTEERS HELP OUT FAIRFIELD'S URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM

by Garth Davis, Spokane County Conservation District & NE Washington UCF Assistance Forester

Fairfield is a small town of just over 600 people on the Palouse in Eastern Washington. Fairfield has been a [Tree City USA](#) for seven years. The tree committee in Fairfield is made up of a few select people who understand how an urban forest can benefit a community, even a small one. One of the most engaged people on Fairfield's tree committee is John Jesseph.

John is an arborist who lives in Fairfield and operates Inland Tree Service, which provides communities in Spokane County with proper tree care. John has lived in the Spokane area all of his life; he and his wife Jeannie moved to Fairfield five years ago. Since then John has proven that he is willing to spend a substantial amount of his personal time to promote and assist the local community forestry program. As an ISA Certified Arborist, John is in a position to lend a large helping hand to the community trees.

In the past two years almost 40 large caliper trees have been



John Jessup digging planting holes. (photo: G. Davis)

the local cemetery to cyclically prune and maintain a stand of maples trees at the cemetery that are over 100 years old.

installed on public property in Fairfield using volunteers. John has been present at all of the volunteer projects that planted these trees. He has also been willing to use his stump grinder to dig the holes. Those of you who have dug many holes by hand know what a welcome sight that piece of equipment can be. John also works with

Another key individual who regularly helps with the planting projects is the Mayor of Fairfield. Ed is usually at any volunteer activity that the tree board organizes. It is nice to see a mayor participating at that level, and anyone who has worked with communities to achieve Tree City USA status knows how important it is to have the support of the mayor.

These two engaged individuals have made a big difference in a small town. They have worked to maintain and expand Fairfield's tree resource. They have made an investment in time and money that will leave a thriving tree canopy in Fairfield as a legacy.



Mayor Huber reads the Arbor Day proclamation (photo: G. Davis)

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COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE' URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAMS; FUNDING AND OTHER CHALLENGES

by Terry Flatley, City of Renton

"Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it." - Michael Jordan

Municipal budgets are often tied to the revenue coming in from sales taxes, property taxes and similar sources to the services demanded by the public. In good times and bad, most governmental departments operate within very efficient budgets. Budget allocations are relative in the fact that a large budget today may seem miniscule in ten years. Today, many jurisdictions are struggling to retain traditional programs and services; programs and services are being prioritized and reduced - sometimes to nothing. New programs and those that have growth potential are, for the most part, no longer part of today's budget discussions. Urban forestry budgets are no exception to what seems to be a nationwide phenomenon of reducing governmental services provide to the citizenry. And, beginning an urban forestry program may seem impossible for many in this economy.



However, the [Arbor Day Foundation](#) reports "more communities than ever have successfully applied for a [Tree City USA \(TCUSA\) award](#) and the total number has increased to 3,484." Program expansion and new projects are slightly off, reflected by a lower number of TCUSA Growth Awards. In the TCUSA Bulletin, 2011 Annual Report titled, "A Look Into the Future," urban foresters from the U.S. Forest Service National Urban and Community Forestry Program, Texas Trees Foundation, City of Cambridge Massachusetts, Pacific Gas and Electric and Wisconsin Urban Forestry Program

offer helpful suggestions for finding the way around the budget wall placed in front of many urban forestry programs.

In summary, those experts responded with the following comments to questions posed by the Arbor Day Foundation contact your urban forester to view the complete article :

- Challenges
 - Working well with others such as sharing of resources and expertise
 - Increasing population and land development growth in relation to ecosystem preservation, conservation and management
 - Operating with less staff and reduced rates of production (e.g. longer pruning cycles)
 - Public safety concerns with lower levels of maintenance (e.g. hazard tree removal)
 - Invasive pest concerns such as the Asian long-horned beetle and others and managing trees across property ownerships with lower funding levels
- Solid urban forestry program characteristics
 - A strong combination of strategy, thoughtful policies, secure resources and adequate funding, program succession planning and vision, community support and professional staff that integrates research, science and practice
 - Foster communication with strong advocates, internal and external stakeholders and with partners
 - Supportive elected officials and cooperation between departments
 - Consistent and reliable budget
- Advice to Avoid Mistakes
 - Keep the message simple and unified
 - Link the role of urban forests to local issues
 - Avoid over-capacity for day-to-day needs at the expense of program improvement
 - Network regularly with nearby communities and forestry partners
 - Share the love with volunteers and other partners; collaborate with similar-interest groups
 - Integrate multiple support systems be they funding, advocates or other departments; for example don't rely on a single person who may move on some day

To effectively weather tough economic times, begin now to build on the these items and if some or all of them are part of your operation already, strengthen them further.

Terry Flatley is the Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Manager for the City of Renton. He represents Urban Forest Mangers and Municipal Arborists on the Washington Community Forestry Council. Terry can be reached by [email](#) or call 425-766-6187

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FRUIT TREE TIP

[by City Fruit](#)



Pick up your fallen fruit. Experts say that the single most important thing you can do to prevent pests next year is to remove fallen fruit (and leaves). Pests in the fruit overwinter beneath the tree, just waiting to create problems next season. Rake it up and put it in your yard waste (not your compost pile).

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ARBORICULTURE STUDY COURSE WENATCHEE COURSE BEGINS THIS DECEMBER

For 12 weeks, starting December 8, 2011, through February 23, 2012, the WSU Chelan County

Extension will hold an Arboriculture Study Course. Classes will be held on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon, at WSU Chelan County Extension, 400 Washington St., Wenatchee, WA.

Benefits of the course include:

- Preparation for [ISA Arborist Certification](#) Exam
- ISA Arborist Recertification Credits
- WSU Master Gardener Continuing Education Credits
- Other professional horticulture organization CEU'S upon request

Cost for the full 12 week course is \$110.00. Individual classes can be attended for \$10.00 per class. Financial assistance is available.

For more information about the program, or to receive a registration packet call WSU Chelan County Extension at 509-667-6540 or e-mail Paula Dinius at pdinius@wsu.edu . 509-667-6540.

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WEB-UCATION - LINKS TO HELP YOU LEARN

Need Tree Board Training? Attend [Tree Board University!](#) Enroll now for this FREE online learning experience, which is *open to anyone*. This is a great learning opportunity. To sign-up, visit: www.treeboardu.org

[Washington Association of Conservation Districts \(WACD\) Plant Materials Center](#) - Need seedlings for restoration projects? Check out the WACD for native plant materials.

WHEN SEVERE WEATHER STRIKES [Advice on managing trees before and after the storm](#) by the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Contact [Linden Mead](#) to add your event to the Calendar

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN URBAN FORESTS -

Enhancing habitat complexity and ecosystem function in urban parks

* November 10, 9 AM - 4 PM, Camp Long Community Center, 5200 35th Ave. SW, Seattle

The morning seminar and afternoon field tour will introduce forest managers to the principles of ecological forestry as well as strategies for restoring urban forests to optimize the wide range of ecosystem services they provide.

A box lunch and refreshments will be provided. COST: \$65, Pre-registration is required.

MORE INFO: Kirk Hanson: 360-316-9317, kirk@nnrg.org

GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP EVENTS 2011

* Saturday, November 5, 9 AM - Noon, Juanita Beach Park, 9703 NE Juanita Drive, Kirkland
Please join Betsy Adams of Public Works, badams@kirklandwa.gov, to help restore Juanita Creek.

* Saturday November 12, 9 AM - Noon, Juanita Bay Park, 2201 Market St., Kirkland
Please join the Green Kirkland Partnership led by an EarthCorps crew and Native Plant Stewards, for a forest planting and invasive removal event, followed by an Arbor day ceremony at noon.

For more information contact Sharon Rodman, 425-587-3305, www.greenkirkland.org

FRUIT TREE PRUNING

* Sunday, January 8, 10 AM - Noon, Sand Point Magnuson Park, Building 406 (The Brig)

This class covers the basics of fruit tree pruning, covering apple, cherry, plum and pear trees. No preregistration is necessary. Just show up and pay at the door: \$15 for the general public; \$10 for PlantAmnesty members, \$5 for horticulture college students and native Spanish speakers. For more information: Email info@plantamnesty.org or call 206-783-9813

TREE FRUIT ORCHARDING WORKSHOPS FOR WESTERN WASHINGTON

Workshop instructor Gary Moulton, tree fruit scientist, consultant and, former manager of the Westside tree fruit program at WSU's Mount Vernon Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center, will teach three classes this spring. NOTE: Space is limited for all workshops and advance registration and pre-payment is required, (includes a box lunch).

All classes to be held at Ed's Apples, 13420 339th Ave. S.E., Sultan, (just off State Route 2):

ORCHARDING ON THE WESTSIDE

* Saturday, January 22, from 9 AM - 4 PM

Topics: basics of tree fruit production, fruit types and varieties, rootstocks, nutrient management, pest management, orchard layout, pruning and harvest indices.
\$75 per person, register on line www.BrownPaperTickets.com/event/136747.

DORMANT PRUNING

* Saturday, February 26, 10 AM - 3 PM

Topics: the basics of pruning emphasis on goals and techniques of dormant pruning, the physiology of a tree's response to pruning, what to look for in deciding whether to prune.
\$65 per person, register on line. www.BrownPaperTicket.com/event/136751.

GRAFTING

* Saturday, April 16, 10 AM - 3 PM

Topics: different types of grafting, choosing and taking scion wood, choosing a receptor site, and making the graft and sealing it properly. Participants will practice grafting indoors, and then move outdoors to work on larger trees. Dress appropriately and bring gloves and a grafting knife, or purchase one at the workshop for \$15.
\$75 per person, register on line. www.BrownPaperTickets.com/events/136756.

For more information on the workshops, contact Andrew Corbin at corbina@wsu.edu or 425-357-6012.

WOMEN'S ARBORICULTURE CONFERENCE 2012

March 21-23, Tigh-Na-Mara Seaside Spa Resort & Conference Centre in Parksville, Vancouver Island, B.C.

The conference targets Arborists, Foresters, Horticulturalists, Landscape Architects & Designers, Master Gardeners, Land Planners, and Managers. Workshops with nationally acclaimed speakers, with Key Note by Dr. Kathy Wolf.

For more information contact info@womenarborists.ca

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The Washington Urban and Community Forestry Program is made possible with assistance from the [USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program](#).

The program's purpose is to educate citizens and decision-makers about the economic, environmental, psychological, and aesthetic benefits of trees and to assist local governments, citizen groups and volunteers in planting and sustaining healthy trees and vegetation wherever people live and work in Washington State. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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